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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/937,021	09/20/2001	Stephen Gold	1509-219	4355

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION  
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER
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ST CYR, DANIEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/937,021	Applicant(s) GOLD ET AL.	
	Examiner Daniel St.Cyr	Art Unit 2876	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15-26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 6-14, 30 and 327 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed 9/22/03.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1, 2, 6-14, and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al, US, 5,455,409, cited by the applicant, in view of Ruppert et al, US Patent No. 5,640,002.

Smith et al disclose an apparatus and method for monitoring a plurality of coded articles and for identifying the location of selected articles comprising: a computer 52 having a communication converter 62 for receiving data signals from data storage devices 10 within the carriers 12 (see col. 17, line 4), a memory means capable for storing said data signals received from the converter 62 (see col. 14, line 25), the computer inherently includes a controller/processor for controlling the functions of the apparatus (see figures 6, 8A-D; col. 10, line 3+; col. 14, line 18+).

Smith et al disclose identification code is printed on labels attached to the tape cartridges (see col. 8, line 24), but fail to disclose a printer attached to the hand-held reader device for printing the identification code.

Ruppert et al disclose a portable RF ID tag and bar code reader comprising: a body 302; a card slot 300; an antenna 304 coupled to an RF module; a display unit 308; a printer 310; a microcomputer 320; an RF/ID reader 314; contact smart card interface 514 and non-contact smart card interface 517; etc. (see figures 16-19).

In view of Ruppert et al's teachings, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Smith et al to include a portable hand-held reader having a printer therein for monitoring, programming, and printing labels for the cartridges. Such modification would make the system more effective wherein the mobile unit could be held/placed at various positions to receive optimal signals. Further, such modified system would be very compact, which would facilitate operators interaction with the unit to obtain greater transactions output. Therefore, it would have been an obvious extension as taught by Smith et al.

Re claims 27-30 since structural limitations are as recited, the method step is obtained, and therefore, obvious.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 15-26 are allowed.
5. Claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Although the prior art of record teaches a system that uses portable reader device for printing labels to be placed onto cartridges, the prior art of record fails to disclose or fairly suggests all the details and functions of the reader, including a processor for selectively causing the memory to couple at least one of the received and stored data signals to the printer, said printer being adapted to be activated so said label includes in user readable format information, etc. These limitation in conjunction with other limitations in the art were shown by the prior art of record.

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed 8/22/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. (see examiner remarks).

**REMARKS:**

In response to the applicant's argument that it would not have been obvious to modify the system of Smith et al to include a portable handheld device as defined in the claims, the examiner respectfully disagrees. The examiner's position is that in view of the portable device of Ruppert et al, the claims would have been obvious over Smith et al. Smith et al disclose printing a label, therefore, a printer is inherently included in the system for printing the label. An artisan would have recognized the benefits of modifying the printing device into a portable device for printing labels for the items. The applicant argument is not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

The applicant's arguments are not persuasive. Refer to the rejection above.

#### ***Conclusion***

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

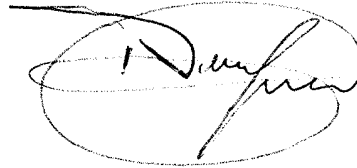
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel St.Cyr whose telephone number is 703-305-2656. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-7721.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Daniel St.Cyr  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2876

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel St.Cyr', is written over a faint, circular, dotted-line stamp.

DS  
December 13, 2003